



**U.S. ARMY JOHN F. KENNEDY**  
**SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER AND SCHOOL**  
***BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH***

USAJFKSWCS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 396-9394 / <http://www.soc.mil>

**MAJ. GEN. JAMES W. PARKER**  
**Commanding General**  
Assumed command on June 11, 2004

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Maj. Gen. James W. Parker is the commanding general of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, Fort Bragg, N.C.

A native of Miami, Fla., Parker enlisted in the Army in 1970. After completing Airborne School and the Special Forces Qualification Course, he served on an A-Team with the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg.

Parker graduated from Officer Candidate School in 1975 and was assigned to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) in Hawaii. In 1979, he reported to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized), at Fort Carson, Colo. In 1984, he was assigned to the newly reactivated 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Lewis, Wash., where he served as battalion operations officer and executive officer for the group's 3rd Battalion.

In 1988, he served a one-year combat tour as the U.S. advisor to the El Salvadorian 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. He then served on the staff of U.S. Special Operations Command in the J-3 directorate. His next assignment was as commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C. In July 1993, he was assigned as the operations officer, and later chief of staff, at the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne). In 1995, he returned to command the unit where he began his special operations career, the 7<sup>th</sup> SFG. He then served as the deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Special Operations Command. In 1998, Parker took command of Special Operations Command South in the Republic of Panama. In July 2000, he was assigned as the director of intelligence and information operations and later director of the Center for Special Operations, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. In 2003, he participated in combat operations in Iraq, serving with U.S. Central Command during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Parker's military schools include the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Armed Forces Staff College, Defense Language Institute, and the U.S. Army War College. He has earned a bachelor's degree in management from Fort Lauderdale University and a master's degree in procurement and contract management from Webster University.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), Republic of El Salvador Combat Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Military Freefall Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab and Special Forces Tab.

- VERITAS ET LIBERTAS -

